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## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Buffalo man pleads guilty to mail fraud**

A 38-year-old Buffalo man pleaded guilty today in federal court to one count of mail fraud in connection with the theft of more than \$230,000 from his employer, which was used to pay his personal credit card bills.

Michael John Rome entered his plea Aug. 4 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge John Tunheim. Rome was charged on June 5.

According to his plea agreement, Rome was employed as the director of finance of the customer service division of Archway Marketing Services, located in Rogers. Rome admitted that from July 2000 to August 2005, he knowingly and intentionally devised and executed a scheme to defraud Archway and to obtain money from the company by means of false and fraudulent pretenses.

Rome created a series of 116 false invoices which made it appear as though Archway owed the credit card company Capital One purported lease payments which were not owned by Archway. Rome used his position to approve Archway's payment of the false invoices, which were actually payments on Rome's personal credit card account. The 116 payments totaled \$232,784.49.

On Aug. 24, 2005, Rome sent via the U.S. Mail a \$9,985.76 check drawn on Archway's bank account which was used to pay down Rome's personal credit card debt.

Rome faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Tunheim will determine Rome's sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. MacLaughlin.